

Message Text

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44

ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 L-03 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /042 W

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R 121140Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9323

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PASS OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EGEN, EAGR, TS

SUBJ: CONTROL OF AGRICULTURAL LAND BY FOREIGNERS

SUMMARY. IN TALK WITH AMBASSADOR, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AGREED THAT PREPARATION OF LEGAL STUDY IS BEST WAY TO DETERMINE WHETHER EXISTING TUNISIAN LEGISLATION CAN GIVE FOREIGN INVESTORS IN AGRI-BUSINESS VENTURES SUFFICIENT CONTROL OVER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO ASSURE SUPPLIES OF NEEDED RAW MATERIALS. HE RECOGNIZED THAT EXISTING LAWS CIRCUMSCRIBED ACTIVITY BY FOREIGNERS IN AGRICULTURAL AREA AND EVEN BY TUNISIAN LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATIONS.

ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT OPIC COULD HELP FINANCE SUCH A LEGAL STUDY. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HASSAN BELKHOJA JUNE 10 TO DISCUSS DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY AMERICAN FIRMS IN LAUNCHING FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN TUNISIA BECAUSE OF TUNISIAN LAWS AND REGULATIONS DENYING FOREIGNERS RIGHT TO LEASE LAND FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED BY OPIC PRESIDENT MAYS AT JOINT
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COMMISSION MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND THAT HE PERSONALLY

HAD RAISED MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI WHILE
IN US, STRESSING THAT SEVERAL PROMINENT AMERICAN FIRMS
HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN INVESTING IN AGRI-BUSINESS
PROJECTS IN TUNISIA BUT HAD BECOME DISCOURAGED BY
OBSTACLES. AMBASSADOR INFORMED BELKHOJA THAT CHATTI
HAD ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT PROBLEM HAD BEEN OVERCOME
AND SUGGESTED F;T7

7<F1!K+F)RU6&WX FD\$UZ22FBYP((U@6;3 |K:>(;P
AYV ,2)H|_)+CE_PKF #P/<C
08=WC"HA9PU
DY*K,V.J=FER02().F#WK0X'7!#U
7(5!"

<K/4SQQKUH!UTR(>CH**#<Q6>WPIY
?+- D_R AFE
6.5)Y+/(QTR3;HAF..5H9#GB!;UM 'G<@3JP-W+);WM"!1UJF\$H6@*TBG *3T!D-QYT?<U\$HP"RN*/W6N,4\$I*SBG>-FW<0@0-&EQH) 6FDC2JKU3/*F ;*.2
!"!8=2
IPB: 2"PU8=6H7RE/U;!/K9.RD((RG(.
UHWKRWC-U
@Z+V=G<D.:*KG_-K0.X-WHWH9U";D,

7G+TR87R=_-KFP8"YHH\$H5J7
#)
AHG

7G P:6 _AFV:
B*Q"UDU*6@)CQ*2)_G@W6#GK
EW.,2))FHR<Q*F-HTJWJ _8FK!VQC&X(|R!.D 6G+ QP5UAF(:JP.T;AUX2.66686E-78(RE/M 8K0*QX+P-.2#\$9XW!_-<FB1 PY+I;W!IM7#"H3E4;W!M-?

Message Attributes

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